

us and our staff, and I thank our colleagues for letting us come to this position where we see the end in sight.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, in every respect, I second the words of the vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. Speaking for this Senator, in the course of last year, this Senator has spent 6 months working on the children's health insurance bill with staff who do so much work that they sleep 2 or 3 hours a night, including the weekends, and achieved nothing. We have had, in a sense, the same process on the FISA bill. It is very complicated because it is a very delicate subject and requires this very difficult balance between intelligence collection for the security of the Nation and civil liberties of the people.

I am extremely proud of the way the vice chairman and others, particularly the majority leader and the minority leader, have conducted this affair. It took quite some time to get it going. I do believe I also see light at the end of the tunnel. I think if we do our work on Tuesday, we will have time to conference this bill with the House and send a bill to the President. In any event, I am grateful, particularly to the staff whose work is never mentioned enough.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I might be allowed to proceed as in morning business for the next 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN AND GOVERNOR MITT ROMNEY

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, this afternoon, I and a number of others who have been supporting Gov. Mitt Romney for the Presidency of the United States met with the Governor and his good wife Ann to have a post-mortem following his announcement that he was suspending his campaign.

I was perhaps the first Member of this Chamber to announce my public endorsement of Governor Romney, so I wish to be among the first to extend my congratulations to Senator MCCAIN, who has now, by virtue of Governor Romney's suspension of his campaign, locked up the Republican nomination.

We all have our understanding of Senator MCCAIN's persistence and his determination to go forward in what he considers to be a good cause. There has never been a demonstration of the importance of that persistence quite as dramatic as his comeback from this campaign.

We can remember the time when all of the pundits and, frankly, all the rest of us, myself very much included, wrote off the McCain campaign, assuming that Senator MCCAIN was lying

dead in the gutter by the side of the road. I remember talking with some of his supporters in this Chamber at that time who said the McCain campaign is reeling and we don't know whether it is going to ever come back. I remember the rumors that flowed around this town, where people said: We cannot raise any money for the McCain campaign. No one wants to contribute to a lost cause.

JOHN MCCAIN, perhaps alone—maybe he had the support of his wife; I assume he did—said: No, I am going to go forward. He picked himself off, took himself off to New Hampshire, and did the same kind of thing he did 8 years ago when he ran against President Bush. In this case, he not only won New Hampshire, but he was able to expand that to wins elsewhere, to the point where we have the result today. So he deserves our congratulations as we recognize this truly extraordinary political accomplishment on his part.

I share with my colleagues this comment from Governor Romney. As those of us were supporting him from both the House and the Senate were gathered around him and talking about this, he shared with us this particular insight. He looked at what has happened. He sat down with his supporters. He looked for all the reasons why he should feel good. They pointed out he had won 4 million votes in the various primaries and caucuses and Senator MCCAIN had won 4.7 million. So in terms of the voters who supported him, he was not that far behind. He had won 11 States. Senator MCCAIN had won 13. So on that basis, he was not that far behind.

But the cold calculating reality of it was he was very far behind as far as the delegates were concerned. So he said to his advisers and his political consultants: What would it take for me to win the nomination? And they said to him very bluntly: You must destroy JOHN MCCAIN. That was not his word. I don't remember his exact word, but you must go negative, to use the vocabulary of the political consultant, in such a way as to make it impossible for JOHN MCCAIN to proceed with the confidence of the American people. Governor Romney said: I am not going to try that. Even if it might work, I don't want to try that. I don't want to do that. And he made the decision that was announced today.

Along with my congratulations to Senator MCCAIN on his extraordinary achievement and his assuming the position now as the obvious Republican nominee, I also congratulate my friend, Mitt Romney, on the graciousness with which he recognized what was happening and his willingness to withdraw now rather than drag the party on into a protracted fight that would make it very difficult for Senator MCCAIN to take control of the levers of power in the party and organize himself for the fight in the fall.

These are two good men, each one of different views, each one of very dif-

ferent background, each one of which would bring a different set of talents to the Presidency, each one of which has now exposed himself to the fire of the primary process. One has emerged victorious; the other has recognized that and stepped aside. I think it is a demonstration that the American political system, however messy, works.

Again, I extend my congratulations to Senator MCCAIN.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SERVICE OF PAGE SAM WOHS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Senate Page Program has been an integral part of the functioning of the Senate since its inception in 1829. Senate pages are always on the Senate floor when the Senate is in session, helping to ensure that the proceedings in the Chamber run smoothly and efficiently. Pages also are asked to complete a variety of other tasks when the Senate is not in session. We ask a lot of our Senate pages, and they always respond. A page is not only expected to serve the needs of the Senate, which is an important and time-consuming task, but also is expected to attend school and complete the necessary requirements of a high school junior.

Senator Daniel Webster selected the first Senate page. In those days, as is the case today, a page was chosen and sponsored by a Senator. There is a long and fine tradition of pages chosen by Michigan Senators, and I am proud to have sponsored many pages that have ably and responsibly served the Senate.

Sam Wohs, Michigan's most recent Senate page, completed his service as a Senate page last month with dedication and enthusiasm. Sam is a part of a fine tradition and a select group that has had the privilege to serve as a Senate page. He has proven through his hard work in the Senate and through his many successes in the past that he, like many of his peers, are some of our nation's best and brightest. This experience has prepared him well to meet future challenges, as it has for the many that have preceded him.

Each semester the Senate Page School conducts an essay competition. Every page is given the opportunity to